

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 7-11 have been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

However, in the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Applicants have not filed a certified copy of the foreign priority document, Korean Patent Application No. 2001-043714. However, Applicants filed the foreign priority document with the USPTO on December 28, 2001. A copy of the filing receipt showing that the foreign priority document was received by the USPTO, and a copy of a certified copy of the foreign priority document are attached hereto. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the foreign priority document in the next Office Action.

Applicants also wish to bring to the Examiner's attention the fact that Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on January 21, 2005. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider all of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, and provide Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 attached to the Information Disclosure Statement, indicating consideration of all of the documents cited therein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because the terms YES and NO of step S6 in Figure 4 were not translated into English. To address the Examiner's concerns, Applicants submit herewith a substitute drawing of Figure 4,

which is amended to translate the terms YES and NO of step S6 into English, and respectfully request that the Examiner approve the drawings.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner stated that it was unclear whether the phrase “converting/processing data” in claim 3 means converting data, processing data, or converting and processing data. Applicants have amended claim 3, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 1-7 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,094). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The present invention is directed towards a home appliance control system. The system includes, inter alia, an external Internet network installed outside of a building, an internal network installed inside of the building, a plurality of home appliances installed in the building, and a computing device that sets private Internet protocol (IP) addresses and port numbers of the home appliances. The appliances connect to the internal network based on the set private IP addresses and port numbers. The system also includes a plurality of communication modules installed in the home appliances. Each of the communication modules store the private IP address and port number of a corresponding home appliance.

Humpleman relates to a home network 100, which includes multiple home devices. In one embodiment of the invention, a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server 106 performs the functions of a configuration manager for the home

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network. See col. 10, lines 64-67. The DHCP server 106 generates a unique IP address for each home device on the home network 100. See col. 11, lines 13-16.

However, Humpleman does not disclose or suggest that the DHCP server sets the port numbers of the home devices. Further, Humpleman fails to disclose or suggest any other computing device which sets private IP addresses and port numbers of home appliances. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Humpleman fails to disclose a home appliance system that includes a computing device that sets private IP addresses and port numbers of home appliances, as recited in amended claim 1 of the present application. Applicants also submit that Humpleman fails to disclose a method for controlling home appliances which includes setting private IP addresses and port numbers of home appliances with a computing device, as recited in claim 7.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 7 is improper, and respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

Dependent claims 2-6 and 9-11 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 7.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Abrams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,739). As stated above, Humpleman fails to disclose a method for controlling home appliances which includes setting private IP addresses and port numbers of home appliances with a computing device, as recited in claim 7. Abrams also fails to disclose or suggest such a method. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the combination of Humpleman and Abrams, as suggested by the Examiner, fails to

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disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 7, and thus submit that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 8 is also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 7.

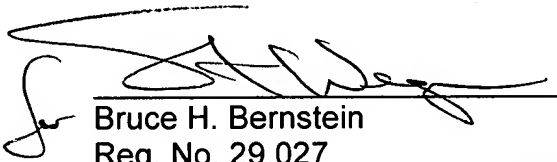
Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosures: Priority Document (copy)  
Date-stamped Filing Receipt (copy)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 4. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Figure 4. In Figure 4, the terms YES and NO at step S6 have been translated into English.